

Message Text

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17/72

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5627

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 4817

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT PARA 1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJ: CREATION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REF: PHNOM PENH 4705

1. IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE AS PRIME MINISTER, LONG BORET ANNOUNCED THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 2) THE CREATION OF A NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL "TO ASSIST THE PRESIDENT IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS CIVIL AND MILITARY POLICIES." HE READ TO REPORTERS THE TEXT OF THE DECREE WHICH NAMED THE HIGH ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT (SIRIK MATAK WAS APPOINTED TO THIS POST BY A DECREE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY), THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND SPECIFIED THAT IT WILL MEET ONCE A WEEK ON AN AGENDA PREPARED BY SIRIK MATAK.

2. BORET NOTED THAT THE RECENTLY ABOLISHED HIGH POLITICAL
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COUNCIL HAD BOTH AN EXECUTIVE AND A LEGISLATIVE ROLE. THE

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HE EXPLAINED, HAS NO LEGISLATIVE POWERS, AS THESE HAVE BEEN REASSUMED BY THE PARLIAMENT, BUT IS INTENDED TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND THE CREATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL ENTAIL NO CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY, BORET ADDED.

3. BORET SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS INVITED THE JUSTICE, HEALTH AND INDUSTRY MINISTERS TO WITHDRAW THEIR RESIGNATIONS. (CHENG HENG CONFIRMS THAT THE THREE HAVE ASKED FOR TIME TO REFLECT ON THIS REQUEST.) BORET SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE THEM REMAIN IN THE CABINET IF THEY SO CHOOSE.

4. ASKED WHETHER SIRIK MATAK WILL ACT AS VICE PRESIDENT, BORET REPLIED THAT SIRIK'S NEW POSITION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH VICE PRESIDENCY. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, BORET REVEALED THAT CHENG HENG REFUSED THE POSITION OF COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT BUT WILL RETAIN THE PREROGATIVES OF A FORMER CHIEF OF STATE.

5. REFTTEL CONTAINS OUR COMMENT ON NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
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Message Attributes

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